An Abstract OF A LETTER

From a Person of Eminency and worth in *Caledonia* to a Friend at *Boston* in *New-England*.

SIR,

I Have Received your kind Letter of the 26 *December* last, and Communicated it to the Gentlemen of the Council here; to whom your kind Sentiments, and Readiness were very acceptable.

Certainly the Work here begun is the most Ripened, Digested, and the best Founded, as to Priviledges, Place, Time, and other like Advantages, that ever was yet begun in any part of the Trading World. We Arrived upon this Coast the first, and took possession the third of *November*: Our Scituation is about Two Leagues to the Southward of *Golden-Island*, (by the *Spaniards* called *Guarda*) in one of the best & most defenceable Harbours perhaps in the World. The Country is Healthful to a wonder; insomuch that our own Sick, which were many when we Arrived, are now generally cured. The Country is exceeding Fertile, and the Weather Temperate: The Country where we are Settled, is dry,

dry, and rising ground, Hills but not High; and on the sides, and quite to the tops, three, four or five foot good fat mould, not a Rock or Stone to be seen. We have but Eight or Nine Leagues to a River, where Boats may go into the South Sea. The Natives for Fifty Leagues on either side are in intire friendship and Correspondence with us; and if we will be at the pains, we can gain those at the greatest distance. For our Neighbour *Indians* are willing to be the joyful Messengers of our Settlement, and good disposition to their Country-men. As to the Innate Riches of the Countrey, upon the first information, I always believed to be very great: but now find it goes beyond all that ever I thought, or conceited in that matter.

The *Spaniards*, as we can understand, are very much surprized, and alarm'd, and the more that it comes as a Thunder-clap upon them; having had no notice of us, until three days after our Arrival. We have Written to the Præsident of *Panama*, giving him Account of our good and peaceable intentions, and to procure a good Understanding and Correspondence; And if that is not condescended to; we are ready for what else he pleases. If Merchants should once Erect Factories here, this place will soon become the best and surest Mart in all *America*, both for In-land and Over-land Trade. We want here Sloops and Coasting Vessels; for want of which, and by reason we have been all hands at work in fortifying and fitting our selves (which is now pretty well over) we have had but little Trade as yet: most of our Goods Unsold. We are here a Thousand one hundred Men, and expect Supplies every day. We have been exceeding unhappy in loosing two Ministers who came with us from *Scotland*; and if *New England* could supply us in that, it would be a great and lasting Obligation.

Fort St. *Andrew.*
February, 18*th.*
1698, 9.

CALEDONIA:

THE Declaration OF THE COUNCIL

Constituted by the *Indian* and *African* Company of *Scotland*; for the Government, and direction of their Colonies, and Settlements in the *Indies*.

THE said Company pursuant to the Powers and Immunities Granted unto them, by His Majesty of Great *Britain*, our Soveraign Lord, with Advice and Consent of His Parliament of *Scotland*: having Granted and Conceded unto us and our Successors in the Government for all times hereafter, full Power to equip, set out, freight, and navigate, our own or hired Ships, in War-like, or other manner, from any ports or places in Amity, or not in Hostility with His Majesty; to any Lands, Islands, Countries, or places in *Asia*, *Africa*

or *America*: and there to Plant Colonies, build Cities, Towns or Forts in or upon the places not Inhabited, or in or upon any other place by consent of the Natives or Inhabitants thereof, and not posseſt by any *European* Sovereign, Potentate, Prince, or State; and to provide and furniſh the aforeſaid Places, Cities, Towns, or Forts, with Magazines, Ordnance, Arms, Weapons, Ammunition and Stores of War; and by force of Arms to defend the ſame Trade, Navigation, Colonies, Cities, Towns, Forts, Plantations, and other Effects whatſoever; and likewiſe to make Reprizals, and to ſeek and take reparation of Damage done by Sea or by Land: and to make and conclude Treaties of Peace, and Commerce with the Sovereign Princes, Eſtates, Rulers, Governours, or Proprietors of the aforeſaid Lands, Iſlands, Countries, or places in *Aſia*, *Africa* or *America*.

And reſerving to themſelves Five *Per Cent.* or one Twentieth part; of the Lands, Mines, Minerals, Pearls, Stones of Value, precious Woods, and Fiſhings: have further Conceded and Granted unto us, the free and abſolute right and property in and to all ſuch Lands, Iſlands, Colonies, Cities, Towns, Forts and Plantations as we ſhall come to, eſtabliſh, or poſſeſs in manner aforeſaid; as alſo to all manner of Treaſures, Wealth, Riches, Profits, Mines, Minerals and Fiſhings, with the whole product and benefit thereof, as well Under as above the Ground, as well in Rivers and Seas, as in the Lands thereunto belonging; or for or by reaſon of the ſame in any ſort; together with the right of Government and Admiralty thereof; as likewiſe that all manner of Perſons who ſhall ſettle to Inhabite, or be born in any ſuch Plantations, Colonies, Cities, Towns, Factories, or places ſhall be, and be reputed as Natives of the Kingdom of *Scotland*; and generally the ſaid Company have Communicated unto us a Right to all the Powers, Properties and Priviledges Granted unto them by Act of Parliament; or otherwiſe howſoever, with power to Grant and delegate the ſame; and to permit and allow ſuch ſort of Trade, Commerce, and Navigation unto the Plantations, Colonies, Cities, Towns, and places of our poſſeſſion, as we ſhall judge fit and convenient.

And the Chief Captains and Supream Leaders of the People of *Darien*, in compliance with former Agreements, having now in moſt kind and obliging manner, received us into their Friendſhip, and

and Country, with Promiſe and Contract to aſſiſt and join in defence thereof against ſuch as ſhall be their or our Enemies in any time to come. Which, beſides its being one of the moſt Healthful Rich, and Fruitful Countries upon Earth, hath the advantage of being a Narrow ISTHMUS, Seated in the Heighth of the World, between the two vaſt Oceans, which renders it more convenient than any other for being the common Store-houſe of the Inſearchable and Immenſe Treaſures of the Spacious South Seas, the door of Commerce to *China* and *Japan*, and the Emporium and Staple for the Trade of both *Indies*.

And now by Virtue of the before-mentioned Powers to us given, We do here Settle, and in the Name of GOD Eſtabliſh Our Selves, and in Honour, and for the Memory of that moſt Ancient and Renowned Name of our Mother Kingdom, We do, and will from hence-forward call this Country by the Name of *Caledonia*: and our ſelves, Succeſſors, and Aſſociates, by the name of *Caledonians*.

And ſuitable to the Weight and Greatneſs of the Truſt repoſed, and the valuable Opportunity now in our hands; being firmly reſolved to communicate and diſpoſe thereof in the moſt juſt and equal manner for Increaſing the Dominions and Subjects of the King Our Soveraign Lord, the Honour and Wealth of our Country, as well as the benefit and advantage of thoſe who now are, or may hereafter be concerned with us: We do hereby Publiſh and Declare, That all manner of Perſons of what Nation or People ſoever, ſhall from hence-forward be equally free and alike capable of the ſaid Properties, Priviledges, Protections, Immunities, and Rights of Government Granted unto us; and the Merchants, & Merchants Ships of all Nations; may freely come to, and Trade with us; without being liable in their Perſons, Goods or Effects, to any manner of Capture, Confiſcation, Seizure, Forfeiture, Attachment, Arreſt, Reſtraint or Prohibition, for or by reaſon of any Embargo, breach of the Peace, Letters of Mark, or Reprizals, Declaration of War with any Forreign Prince, Potentate or State; or upon any other account or pretence whatſoever.

And we do hereby not only Grant, and Concede, and Declare a general and equal freedom of Government and Trade to

This shot repeats the previous
one, but with different lighting.

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those of all Nations, who shall hereafter be of, or concerned with us; but also a full and free Liberty of Conscience in matter of Religion, so as the same be not understood, to allow, connive at, or indulge the Blaspheming of Gods Holy Name, or any of His Divine Attributes; or of the Unhallowing or Prophaning the Sabbath Day.

And finally, as the best and surest means to render any Government successful, durable and happy; it shall (by the help of Almighty God) be ever our constant and chiefest care; that all our further Constitutions, Laws and Ordinances, be consonant and agreeable to the Holy Scripture, Right Reason, and the Examples of the wisest and justest Nations; that from the Truth and Righteousness thereof we may reasonably hope for, and expect the Blessings of Prosperity and Increase.

By Order of the Council,

Hugh Ross *Secretary.*

NEW-EDINBURGH,
December 28.
1698.

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